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TAGS: [PREL](#) [KCRM](#) [PHUM](#) [KWMN](#) [SMIG](#) [KFRD](#) [PREF](#) [TU](#) [TIP](#) [IN](#) [TURKEY](#)
SUBJECT: TIP IN TURKEY: TURKISH MEDIA ATTENTION, May 1-15, 2005

1. (U) In response to G/TIP inquiries, national and international media sources published the following news articles about TIP in Turkey. Text of articles originally published in Turkish is provided through unofficial local FSN translation.

2. (U) Published in Hurriyet on Tuesday, May 3:

TITLE: SHE CAME TO SERVE AS A NANNY, BECAME A SEX SLAVE

BEGIN TEXT: Twenty-two years were demanded for the six members of a gang that forced Kyrgyz women, who were brought as nannies, into prostitution. The women, who complained about the gang, which involved policemen as well, told what they experienced.

The prosecution of a 6-person gang, including two policemen, that allegedly forced into prostitution Kyrgyz women who were brought to Turkey to serve as nannies, began. The Istanbul Heavy Penal Court Number

4 began the trial. Suspects Ali Toprak (policeman), Kyrgyz citizens Gulanda Sasykbaeva and Dina Joroeva, who are under arrest, attended the court session. Suspects Ali Satirli (policeman), Burhan Topuz and Fahriye Bilice are at large but there is an arrest warrant on them. The Court demanded heavy imprisonment terms from two to 22 years for the suspects.

In his testimony suspect Ali Toprak said, "My colleague Ali Satirli called me and requested help for obtaining visa for his girl friend Yelda's friend. I took them to the Foreigners Department. I'm innocent."

Dinara Amankulova, who filed a complaint against the suspects, said that she came to Turkey to serve as a nanny. She noted that the suspects beat her and forced her into prostitution. She said that they turned her into a sex slave.

Nazgul Tokonbaeva said that Dina Joroeva first sold her to a woman called Yelda who sold her along with four people to men.

Victim Zinagul Taichieva, too, testified at the court.

After studying the evidence, the court released Ali Toprak.

The court was adjourned in order to listen to victim Roza Raeva. END TEXT.

3. (U) Published in Cumhuriyet on Tuesday, May 3:

TITLE: Prostitution Operation in Istanbul

BEGIN TEXT: Necdet D., and Zekeriya K. in Istanbul and Okan G., in Sanliurfa were detained for allegedly forcing foreign women into prostitution.

Necdet D., and Zekeriya K., were arrested by the court.

Works are underway for capturing three other suspects who are believed to be in Sanliurfa. END TEXT.

4. (U) Published in Cumhuriyet on Sunday, May 1:

TITLE: Is there Child Pornography?

BEGIN TEXT: There is no data in Turkey on children who were subject to commercial exploitation. But it is known that their number is not small. In recent years the fastest growing exploitation is pornography because its production, duplicating and distribution is very easy.

Harika Yucel is a psychologist. She also is the coordinator of a study by ECPAT on children who were subject to commercial exploitation in Turkey. The research in Diyarbakir and Istanbul looks for answers to questions such as, "What is the status of

commercial exploitation involving children?" "What types are more widespread?" "What is the policy of the media on this issue?" and "What are the protective measures?" We spoke to Yucel on child pornography in Turkey.

Would you talk about yourself first?

I've been working for six years with groups that are under risk. At the Association for Renewed Health and Education, I dealt with children who lived on the streets and especially girls who were subject to commercial exploitation. For the last six months I have been working with adolescents who are at intensive risk and their families at the Community Center in Umraniye. We provide education and psychological support to these kids and their families.

What is the status of child pornography in Turkey?

Although one may not hear a lot about child pornography in Turkey, it is an existing problem. Globalization and the developments in digital technology turned this issue into a problem that crosses the borders. It is very, very simple to produce, duplicate, exchange them. One can reach a photograph issued anywhere around the world on the Internet or you can produce and market something else. Pornography is one of the fastest growing types of sexual exploitation right now around the world.

What kind of results did you obtain in the ECPAT study?

It won't be right for me to say anything about the results because the study is not yet over. Sexual exploitation is kept as a secret and it is hard to find data on it. It is the same around the world. With this study we will take the picture of the status of children who are exposed to commercial exploitation in Turkey. The study will be completed in a month or two. But this is only the beginning. Later we will prepare a campaign for convening a national consultation and an action plan meeting with the participation of all experts on the issue and necessary measures to be taken will be determined. For this study we met with those who sell pornographic products. If we can obtain permission, we will also meet with children who were exploited commercially and who are under protection. When we asked whether there was child pornography to those who sell pornographic material, they say "No." But if we ask for "minor pornography" they say that they have it. As is the case around the world in Turkey, too, people don't think that until the age 18 all are considered a child. It is thought that if a person's body is developed, he/she no longer is a child. Another defense mechanism is that in the child pornography they sell, it is foreign kids playing.

What is the scope of child pornography?

There is a dispute in the world on this issue. In general it is defined as showing a child in actual action or pretension of being involved in a sexual act or to expose the genitals of the child. There is a debate that "artistic" activities with pictures and graphics should be evaluated as part of expression of freedom and democratic rights. But all these indicate that there can be sexuality between a child and an adult. All children from babyhood on can be used as a sexual material. But the real risk is for the adolescents because they are considered as adults. There are many websites that use the rhetoric like high school students and virgins. Mostly adolescents enter the Internet. There are many traps in particular in the chat sites. Photographs and chats there can be used for very different purposes.

If there a profile for those who view child pornography?

There is not a particular profile. But particularly it is the men. Reaching a certain social or cultural status is not a determining factor. In the past it was said that people who watch such things had suppressed sexuality. But the research now shows that there is no longer such a difference.

What is the satisfaction lying beneath?

Many people think that if a child shows sexual development there would not be a problem in entering a relation with him/her. This also has something to do with gratifying youth and beauty. On the other hand, it also has something to do with power and authority. In relationship with a youngster, the person feels more powerful. I believe there has been sexual exploitation aiming at youngsters for centuries. But when you look at the issue from pornography, you see a serious change.

Is it the Internet that played a key role?

Yes there are many websites on the Internet that include child pornography. They constantly change their names and addresses. By creating a virtual credit card and without identifying yourself, you can

"shop" from these sites. Indeed some websites require depositing serious fees to admit members. Some others demand pictures or photographs never aired before to be presented for new memberships. Interpol is trying to detect those who enter child pornography sites. But it could reach a few. Very few of the kids whose pictures and photographs were aired could be reached. END TEXT.

15. (U) Reported by Anadolu Ajansi on Tuesday, May 3:

BEGIN TEXT: A panel discussion was held on child pornography at the Gazi University on May 3, 2005.

Prof. Oguz Polat, Head of the Forensic Medicine Department at the Marmara University, argued that children end up on the streets in Turkey basically because of child exploitation. He stressed the importance of children living through the role that his/her age requires. He added that economic, as well as physical exploitation of children affect children badly. Polat noted that child exploitation includes all types, such as physical, sexual, emotional exploitation and negligence. He argued that the percentage of children in secondary education who are beaten in Istanbul was 87. He added that 91 percent of women who leave their houses because of domestic violence and take refuge in shelters were beating their children.

Polat stated that sexual exploitation of children in general occurs when a child is between 8-11. He added that it was one of the exploitations hardest to detect. Polat noted that when one studies the court cases of those exploited sexually by their relatives, you see that 57 percent are exploited by their own fathers. Four percent by their own older brothers, three percent by their close relatives, and 26 percent by a second degree relative.

Prof. Ayse Yalin, president of the Turkish Psychologist Association, said that mostly kids between 9-11 were subject to sexual exploitation. She noted that ten percent of such kids were under the age of six. She noted that sexual exploitation affects the health and development of a child in a bad manner. END TEXT.

16. (U) Published by Kosovareport, Tuesday, May 10, www.kosovareport.blogspot.com:

TITLE: Gul: "We support the realization of the standards of international community prior to a final status on Kosovo"

BEGIN TEXT: Bucharest (A.A.) - 10.05.2005 - Turkish Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Gul has indicated today (Tuesday) that Turkey supports the realization of the standards of international community prior to a final status of Kosovo.

Participating in a meeting of the ministers of foreign affairs within the framework of Southeast European Countries Cooperation Process, Gul remarked that the status quo in Kosovo is a matter of concern for the whole region. "There are problems that have not been resolved. High levels of unemployment and the instability in the economy continue to be threats to stability in Kosovo," mentioned Gul.

Gul stressed that Kosovo must be supported with economic packages. "The solution in Kosovo would be possible with the participation of all groups involved. Dialog between the main groups is essential for the resolution of all disputes in Kosovo," told Gul.

Gul commented that the maintenance of peace and stability in the Balkans would be beneficial for every one. "The international organizations can play a vital role in the region," expressed Gul.

Gul noted that Turkey supports NATO's "open door" policy and added that NATO is open to all countries that meet the basic criteria.

Gul said that countries must cooperate full in order to deal with immigration, organized crime and human trafficking. Gul stated that Turkey is ready to do all it can to fight against international terror. "International terror is a threat to the region and the whole world itself," declared Gul. END TEXT.

17. (U) Published by Chisinau Infotag on Tuesday, May 10:

TITLE: Moldovan-Turkish Sex Trafficking Ring Eradicated

BEGIN FBIS TRANSLATED TEXT: Chisinau, 10 May: The

[Moldovan] law-enforcement agencies have exposed and eradicated a ring of Moldovan-Turkish traffickers, who earned more than 1m dollars by sexually exploiting a large number of Moldovan girls.

The Interior Ministry's press service told Infotag that the network consisted of three Moldovan criminal rings headed by a 38-year-old Turkish national, (?Mustafa Estimez). These groups, called the Central group, the Gypsy group and the Gagauz group, were active in central and southern parts of Moldova in 2001-04.

About 20 victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation were found in brothels in Turkey owned by the Turkish citizen. The traffickers had promised girls that upon their arrival to Turkey they would work as dancers in night clubs.

The law-enforcement agencies have identified all members of the trafficking ring and detained seven of them, including their leader (?Mustafa Estimez). Ten criminal cases have been filed against them. Some of the detainees face life imprisonment. Infotag note. Since the beginning of this year, 87 cases of women trafficking, 25 cases of child trafficking and 31 cases of prostitution have been discovered. END TEXT.

18. (U) Published by Islamic Republic News Agency on Wednesday, May 11, www.irna.ir:

TITLE: Pakistan, Greece to cooperate in anti-terror war

BEGIN TEXT: Pakistan and Greece have agreed to enhance cooperation to curb the menace of human trafficking, narcotics and drugs and war on terrorism.

This was agreed between a meeting of the Interior Minister Mr. Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao and Greek Minister for Public Order Mr. George Voulgarakis in Islamabad on Wednesday.

Both the sides also signed an agreement to curb the menace of human trafficking, production and trafficking of narcotics and drugs, war on terrorism and organized crime.

Both the countries have also agreed to launch a campaign among the people to create awareness about the negative impacts "of illicit human trafficking," Interior Minister Aftab Sherpao and Mr. Voulgarakis told a joint news conference.

Pakistan and Greece have also agreed to contact Iran and Turkey which are used as a land route for human trafficking to "Greece from Pakistan for taking measures to control this menace," Sherpao said.

He said Pakistan had proposed a meeting of the four countries to discuss the issue in Athens. "Both the countries will convince Iran and Turkey to extend cooperation in other fields also including forensic technology, methods of criminology research and prevent illegal entry in the both countries.

He appreciated Pakistan's role in the war against terrorism and said his country looks more important role of Pakistan in this war in future also.

He said that strengthening relations with Greece will also help Pakistan to further cement its ties with the European Union.

About seventy thousand Pakistanis are working in Greece, who proved themselves as a peaceful community and the "government is working to legalize their stay," the Greek official added. END TEXT.

19. (U) Reported by Kiev Kanal 5 TV in Ukrainian on Saturday, May 7:

BEGIN FBIS TRANSLATED TEXT: Ukraine and Turkey will ease visa procedures for the nationals-businessmen and international haulage drivers. Agreement was reached to prepare an appropriate document, the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry's press service has said.

The two parties also decided to sign an agreement on extradition of criminals and cooperation in human trafficking very soon. END TEXT.

10. (U) Published by Bucharest Observatorul Militar on Thursday, April 28:

TITLE: Romania Organizes International Conference on

Black Sea Security, Cooperation

BEGIN FBIS TRANSLATED TEXT: The international conference considering the "Black Sea Area and Euro-Atlantic Security: Strategic Opportunities" took place last week at the Cotoceni Presidential Palace. The conference was organized by the Romanian Presidency, with the assistance of the American, British and German Embassies to Bucharest, and of the "George C. Marshall" European Center for Strategic Studies and of the Association "George C. Marshall" Romania. Its goal was, as President Traian Basescu pointed out in his opening speech, the debate of the Black Sea-related problems, as well as the search for "solutions apt to best meet both the legitimate national interests, and the need for security of the Euro-Atlantic community." Considered in a wider context, the Black Sea area includes both the countries located along the sea coast, and the Caucasus states, whose geographic proximity is doubled by their identify of economic and cultural interests with the countries in the Black Sea area. Moreover, the present and future interests of the European Union and of the North-Atlantic Alliance lead to the need to set up good relations between Romania and Bulgaria, which are both NATO members and future EU members, on the one hand, and among the countries interested in setting up partnerships with those organizations, on the other hand. In that context, Romania's initiative of starting such debates and cooperation actions helps achieve a higher level of understanding of the situation in the Black Sea area, and, at the same time, promotes our country as an important actor in the region.

Many speakers expressed their opinions in the debates: ambassadors, professors, or representatives of several institutions that cooperate in the field of security.

Mihai Stanisoara, president of the Defense Commission of the Chamber of Deputies, Dr. John Rose, president of the "George C. Marshall" European Center for Strategic Studies, and Dr. Roger Kangas, professor at the same prestigious institution, made exclusive declarations for the military press.

[Observatorul Militar] Will there also be cooperation at the level of the parliaments in the countries in the region, on the subject of the strategic opportunities offered by the Black Sea area?

[Stanisoara] Certainly, as the parliamentarians are authorized by the people's vote, who work alongside with the experts in the ministries in the field. By their activity and by a dialogue with the citizens, they can inform the people regarding plans for the future, and can assure a consultation, capable of placing the citizens at the center of the political decision making process.

[Observatorul Militar] What is the importance of the Black Sea area?

[Stanisoara] Its importance is given by the increasing interest of both the EU and the United States, as well as of other actors in the region. Beside the fact that it is an area of a strategic military importance, it is also a crossing point of several goods transportation routes, power conveyance networks, and of cultural cooperation.

Dr. John Rose

[Observatorul Militar] What was the goal of this conference?

[Rose] Its goal was that to give the possibility to important leaders of the international and Romanian community to meet, have the possibility to discuss, find political solutions, and set up new connections.

[Observatorul Militar] Which are the countries in the Black Sea area that have been the main targets of this conference?

[Rose] We can see which they are by just looking at the black Sea map: Bulgaria, Romania, the Republic of Moldova, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine, the countries in the Caucasus region. In other words, all the countries located by the Black Sea coast, plus a few other countries that are located in its vicinity, and had to participate in the conference.

[Observatorul Militar] Why did the countries in the Caucasus region have to also participate?

[Rose] Because the security subjects discussed here

will influence the political developments in the whole Black Sea region.

[Observatorul Militar] How do you see the development of the region in the following five years?

[Rose] There are two variants, which are equally possible. One of them is that we will solve some of the most difficult problems-drug and personnel trafficking, terrorism, border security-and thus will create the pre-requisites for a generation of peace, stability, and economic growth. If we are not able to solve those problems, we will have a generation that will be confronted with conflicts, war, and instability, and this is something that nobody wants.

[Observatorul Militar] What is the role that Romania plays in assuring the achievement of the first variant?

[Rose] First of all, Romania has already assumed a leading role. Nobody needs to tell the people who live in the Black Sea region what their problems are, because they know them very well. The only thing that they have to do is find the will to start solving those problems, and this is what Romania is doing. It invites the other countries in the region to discuss those problems, to develop a mutual trust, and I hope that this will lead to the carrying out of more stable actions, and to finding variable solutions.

Dr. Roger Kangas

[Observatorul Militar] What is the identity of the Caucasus and of the Black Sea?

[Kangas] The countries in the Caucasus region are in a special position. Their identity has been tied to the one of the Soviet Union for many years, as they were its members. What can we say about their position now? Are they located in the Middle East, in Asia, in Europe? Our colleagues in Georgia consider themselves as Europeans. Georgia is a Christian state; it has commercial relations with Romania, Turkey, Bulgaria, Ukraine, and this is why it wants to follow the same course as the others do. Their goal can be fulfilled if they create their Black Sea identity.

[Observatorul Militar] What will happen if this identity is not created? What if the European variant is refused to them?

[Kangas] This possibility also exists. Nothing we can say about the future can be 100% certain. They will probably reconsider their position if conflicts continue in the region, for example, or if the states decide to change their orientation, or if the European organizations and the security structures, such as NATO, for instance, decide to no longer get involved in the Caucasus region. They will probably remain a part of the former Soviet space, or will choose to orient themselves toward the south, toward Turkey, Iran, or other countries in West Asia. I myself believe that NATO and the EU consider this region as an important one, and that they will certainly play an important part in the region.

[Observatorul Militar] Could a rift from the EU and NATO become a security risk?

[Kangas] Possibly, but the major challenge is for the countries in the region to cooperate. The southern Caucasus has unfortunately never been a stable region, but if economic relations improve, we will probably be able to also work on the political relations, and solve the security problems, one by one.

[Observatorul Militar] Do you believe in the possibility that those countries come to work together?

[Kangas] The Marshall Center has a course on security in the southern Caucasus that is attended by people from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia, and Russia, who are dealing with security issues for four weeks. We can see the tensions that are being created, but cooperation is possible if all interested parties make compromises, to a certain extent. It is true that there are animosities and tensions among them, but organizations such as NATO or OSCE can intervene, and solve those conflicts. END TEXT.

11. (U) Published by Southeast European Times (www.setimes.com) on Wednesday, May 11:

TITLE: Greece Takes Over SEECP Chairmanship from Romania

BEGIN TEXT: The eighth summit of the South-East European Co-operation Process (SEECP) began in Bucharest on Tuesday (10 May), marking the end of Romania's one-year term as the organization's chairman-in-office and the beginning of Greece's mandate. The two day event began with a meeting of the heads of government of the nine member states-Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia-Montenegro and Turkey. Representatives of a number of international organizations are also attending, including the EU, the OSCE, the UN, NATO, the Council of Europe and the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe. According to a Romanian Foreign Ministry statement, the main topic on the agenda is SEECP's role in democratic stability processes and as a platform for regional co-operation.

Co-operation was the theme of Romanian President Traian Basescu's opening address. Noting that countries in the region face common challenges, "from terrorism to trafficking in human beings and organized crime," he urged them to work together to find solutions. The summit took place less than a month after Romania and Bulgaria signed their accession treaty with the EU. Greece is the only SEECP country that is already an EU member.

"I am convinced that Bulgarian President Georgi Parvanov and Greek Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis will agree with me that we should share our countries' experience in order to speed up the processes in the Western Balkan countries," Bulgaria's Focus agency quoted Basescu as saying. Membership in the Euro-Atlantic structures is the only option for achieving security and stability in the region, he added. Addressing the foreign ministers of Tuesday, Romanian Prime Minister Calin Popescu Tariceanu said SEECP countries have a common goal of joining the EU and should thus overcome the legacies of the past. Stressing the importance of partnership, and sharing of experience on the road to Europe, the prime minister said that economic co-operation, joint efforts in fighting organized crime and corruption, and harmonization of the judicial system with EU standards were some of the major challenges in confronting the countries. Tariceanu called for strengthened security in the Balkans and for working in partnership with the EU and NATO. He added that Kosovo is one of the important issues today, not only for the UN but for the entire region.

Regional media reports on Tuesday also cited Kosovo as one of the key issues the SEECP country leaders were expected to discuss during the summit. Other topics mentioned included the development of infrastructure in the region and the co-ordination of co-operation processes.

Describing the issue of Kosovo's future status as a very delicate matter, with a potentially enormous impact on regional stability and security, BiH Foreign Minister Mladen Ivanic said it could only be resolved through dialogue and in the best interests of all sides.

On Tuesday, Serbia-Montenegro Foreign Minister Vuk Draskovic sought support from the SEECP member states for his country's bid to join NATO's Partnership for Peace programme. Serbia-Montenegro does not deserve isolation, Draskovic told the summit, voicing hope that NATO membership was a viable target for 2007, to be followed by EU accession. END TEXT.

12. (U) Published by VOA News on Saturday, May 14:

TITLE: Kenya Investigates 69 Bangladeshis for Alleged Terrorism, Drug Trafficking

BEGIN TEXT: Police in Kenya say they have arrested 69 Bangladeshis and are investigating them for possible links to terrorism, drugs and human trafficking.

Police say they picked up the men late Friday from two houses in an upscale area of the coastal city of Mombassa after an anonymous tip.

They say officers found very little in the houses, only mattresses, small amounts of food and computers.

A Kenyan caretaker of the houses also was arrested. The Kenyan told police that all the Bangladeshis were crew members of two vessels, sailing from Turkey. However, police say the men did not have seafarers' identification documents.

Bangladesh's foreign ministry says it is trying to get

details about the arrests through its embassy in Nairobi. It says the suspects may be migrant workers who went to Kenya in search of jobs. END TEXT.

13. (U) Published at Turks.US (www.turks.us) on Saturday, May 14:

TITLE: A Turkish man has been detained by Greek police

BEGIN TEXT: A Turkish man has been detained by Greek police for human trafficking on the eastern Aegean Greek Island of Lesbos. The man who has been identified as 26-year-old Deniz Atisi was arrested Friday and is due to appear before Magistrates on Saturday.

The smuggler was in the act of trafficking 13 immigrants at the time of arrest. It is believed that the Turkish people-trafficker was ferrying the illegal immigrants from Turkey to Europe.

The immigrants from Algeria, Palestine, Lebanon, and Pakistan were forced into the sea by Deniz as he saw the Greek coast-guard approaching. Deniz was aboard the seven-meter speed boat, which was believed to have ferried the illegal immigrants to the Greek island.

Later on an immigrant from India was found dead. END TEXT.

14. (U) Published by The Peninsula, Qatar's Leading English Daily, on Sunday, May 15:

TITLE: Bangladeshis held in Kenya could be job seekers: FM

BEGIN TEXT: Dhaka: Bangladesh's foreign minister said yesterday 69 Bangladeshis arrested in Kenya "may be job seekers" looking for better futures abroad through unauthorized travel agents.

The Bangladeshis were arrested by police in the Kenyan port city of Mombassa late on Friday. Kenyan police said they were investigating the men for possible links to terrorism, drugs and human trafficking.

"They may be job seekers. We've asked our embassy in Kenya to send us a report," Bangladesh's Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan said in Dhaka.

"These things are happening every now and then. We are taking steps to control these incidents," the minister said, referring to recent arrests of Bangladeshis in Algeria, Mauritania and Italy.

Police in Kenya said they found mattresses but no beds and a few bags of rice in the houses where the men were staying in Mombassa's upmarket estate of Nyali.

Kenyan police said none of the men who were arrested could speak English and that they had been forced to communicate using sign language.

Many Bangladeshis travel each year through legal and illegal channels to seek jobs in Western Europe in a bid to flee the poverty of their homeland.

Their journey can take years with migrants spending months in transit countries in northern and eastern Africa before reaching western Europe.

The country has more than 2,000 illegal travel agencies, according to the Bangladesh Travel Agents Society, which describes outlets as fronts for "people traffickers" that prey on the desperation of the poor.

Meanwhile, Kenyan police said yesterday they were investigating 69 Bangladeshi nationals arrested in the country's port city of Mombassa for possible links to terrorism, drugs and human trafficking.

The suspects, who were seized in the Friday night operation, were living in two houses in a plush area of Mombassa, heavily guarded by private security.

"We have confirmed that they are all Bangladesh nationals and there is no single Pakistanis as earlier thought," local deputy police chief John Mbijjiwe said by phone. "We are now pursuing three lines in our investigations: whether they are linked to terrorism activities, drugs or human trafficking," he said.

Mbijjiwe refused to disclose where the men were detained, but witnesses said they were in the city's Port Police Station. Officials said most of the seized passports - some which had Ethiopian immigration seals

- appeared fake, but would still be screened by immigration experts to ascertain their veracity.

A Kenyan caretaker of the houses, Ali Masudi, was also arrested, Mbijjiwe said. On Friday, Masudi told police that the Bangladeshis were crew members of two vessels, sailing from Turkey, which were to dock and pick them up at Mombassa harbour on May 25 and 27, but they did not have seafarers' certificates.

Mbijjiwe refused to comment on the claims, saying everything would also be investigated. Kenyan authorities have voiced concerns that traffickers in drugs and people are increasingly looking toward Kenya - notably the coastal region, a poor country suffering from endemic corruption, as a safe way-station for illicit drugs and human beings.

In December last year, anti-narcotics officers seized a massive quantity of cocaine-the biggest haul in the east African nation since its independence from Britain in 1963-in two separate raids in Nairobi and Malindi town, near Mombassa. END TEXT.

15. (U) Published by China View (www.chinaview.cn) on Sunday, May 15:

TITLE: Kenyan police probe 63 Bangladeshis for alleged terrorism, drug trafficking

BEGIN TEXT: Nairobi, May 15 (Xinhuanet)-Kenyan police confirmed here on Sunday that they have arrested 63 Bangladeshis and are probing them for possible links to terrorism, drugs and human trafficking.

Police said the suspects, believed to be Asian of Bangladeshi origin, were arrested in the port city of Mombassa on Friday night.

Mombassa deputy police boss John Mbijjiwe confirmed that all those detained are men from Bangladesh who are suspected of holding false passports.

"We are now investigating alleged criminal activity involving terrorism, drug and human trafficking," Mbijjiwe told Xinhua by telephone.

But he added that the suspects could also be linked to money laundering, drugs trafficking or being in the country illegally. Police have recovered 24 fake passports.

Mbijjiwe declined to disclose how the suspects entered the country, saying none of the suspects could speak English.

"The search revealed even more. We found gemstones, electronic equipment, air tickets, rubber stamps and even pornographic material," the deputy police boss said.

Mbijjiwe said that a Kenyan caretaker of the houses was also arrested.

Sources said that all the Bangladeshis were crew members of two vessels, sailing from Turkey. However, police said the men did not have seafarers' identification documents.

The Bangladeshi authorities said they may be job seekers seeking a better future, not criminals.

Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Morshed Khan said in Dhaka that some such incidents had taken place in recent times and the government is taking necessary steps, including actions against so-called unauthorized travel agents to put a brake on undocumented migration. END TEXT.

16. (U) Published by Baku Olaylar on Friday, May 13:
TITLE: Human Rights Defender says 248 Women Trafficked from Azerbaijan in 2004

BEGIN FBIS TRANSLATED TEXT: A total of 520 women were subjected to violence in 2004, 248 of them were victims of human trafficking, the Clean World public union for civil rights has said.

The union's chairwoman, Mehriban Zeynalova, said that there were women in all regions of Azerbaijan who fall victims to human trafficking.

"Human traffickers were formerly taking women to Turkey, the UAE, Pakistan, India, Afghanistan, Iran and Russia. This network is expanded now. They are now taking women to the United States, Israel, South Korea,

Malaysia, Indonesia, Oman and Canada. All this allows us to say that the network is controlled by fairly influential agencies, otherwise it would not be so easy to run this business.

"We have provided 14 women with legal and psychiatric assistance since last August. Five of them were Uzbek, one Moldovan and the rest our citizens," Zeynalova said. END TEXT.

EDELMAN